

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 08811 070959Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 ACDA-07 /082 W

-----125482 071140Z /14

R 061537Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5197

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 8811

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NI, IV, XA

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST'S ATTITUDE TOWARD NIGERIA

REF: STATE 208244

1. FOLLOWING RESPONSE KEYED TO QUESTIONS REFTEL.

A. BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN IVORY COAST AND NIGERIA AND GOIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY FROM NADIR IN FEBRUARY 1976, WHEN IVORY COAST EMBASSY IN LAGOS WAS RANSACKED FOLLOWING ASSIQSINATION OF GEN. MURTALA. RESPONSIBLE ROLE PLAYED BY NIGERIA IN SHABA WAR, AND GENERALLY MODERATE POSITIONS TAKEN IN LIBREVILLE OAU SUMMIT, LAGOS ANTI-APARTHEID MEETING, AND OTHER FORA HAVE DONE MUCH TO RESTORE FMG IMAGE IN IVORY COAST, AS HAVE EFFECTIVE EFFORTS HERE OF NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TONWE. THERE ARE PROBABLY LINGERING SUSPICIONS OF NIGERIA'S READINESS TO BULLY ITS SMALLER NEIGHBORS, AND SOME HISTORIC FRANCOPHONE-ANGLOPHONE DISTRUST, BUT IN GENERAL GOIC LOOKS WITH FAVOR ON OBASANJO GOVERNMENT.

B. GOIC RECOGNIZES THAT NIGERIA'S SIZE AND WEALTH INEVITABLY IMPLY A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS. NIGERIA IS MORE MILI-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 08811 070959Z

TANT ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN AND OTHER ISSUES THAN IVORY COAST, BUT IS STILL PERCEIVED AS A STATE WITH WHICH GOIC CAN COOPERATE ON REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL ISSUES. IVORY COAST'S VIEWS ON NIGERIA IN AFRICA ARE BALANCED BETWEEN DESIRE FOR COOPERATION AND CONCERN ABOUT BEING STEAMROLLED. THUS, GOIC IS PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TO FORMATION OF ECOWAS, BUT TO SEEK GREATER AND UNIFIED FRANCO-PHONE REPRESENTATION.

C. WHILE NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC PREEMINENCE MAKES IT A LOGICAL SPOKESMAN FOR AFRICA, HOUPHOUET AND GOIC ARE INCREASINGLY INCLINED TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, AND RELUCTANT TO ABDICATE THAT ROLE. HOUPHOUET HIMSELF DOES NOT PRETEND TO SPEAK FOR ALL AFRICA, THOUGH HE HAS WORKED HARD TO CREATE A GROUP OF FRANCOPHONE MODERATES TO COUNTER THE VOICE OF RADICAL AFRICAN IDEOLOGUES. WHILE NIGERIA WOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED IN THIS CATEGORY, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOIC WOULD BE HESITANT TO VIEW ANY COUNTRY AS SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR AFRICA, AND CONCERNED LEST THE U.S. TEND TOO EXCLUSIVELY TO SO REGARD NIGERIA.

COOKE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ABIDJA08811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770323-0315
Format: TEL
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770997/aaaaddns.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a62f784d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 208244
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1384557
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IVORY COAST'S ATTITUDE TOWARD NIGERIA
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NI, IV, XA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a62f784d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009